

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please cancel Claims 1-6 and 10 and 14.

Please add new Claims 15-19.

The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

**Claim Listing:**

- 1-6. (Cancelled)
7. (Currently Amended) A method for the preparation of a composition consisting of a semi interpenetrating network, wherein the semi interpenetrating network comprises at least one crosslinked water soluble derivative of a basic polysaccharide which has primary and/or secondary amine groups, and a non crosslinked component which comprises at least one anionic polysaccharide, wherein the anionic polysaccharide resides within the semi interpenetrating polymer network, as defined in claim 1 which wherein the method comprises:
- crosslinking at least one water soluble derivative of a basic polysaccharide containing primary and/or secondary amine groups, in the presence of at least one anionic polysaccharide, under conditions which avoid protonation of said primary or secondary amine groups and which also avoid reaction of hydroxyl groups or any other functional group on the anionic polysaccharide.
8. (Currently Amended) A method ~~as claimed in~~ of claim ~~[[6]]~~ 7 wherein the crosslinking reaction is performed ~~under neutral or slightly alkaline conditions, at pH~~ [[range]] from about 7 to about 8.
9. (Currently Amended) A method ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 8 wherein the crosslinking reaction is carried out at a ~~ph around 7~~ pH of about 7.
- 10-14. (Cancelled)

15. (New) The method of claim 7 wherein the water soluble basic polysaccharide is chitosan or a derivative thereof.
16. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein the derivative of chitosan is selected from the group consisting of deacetylated chitosan, re-acetylated chitosan, partially N-acetylated chitosan, N-carboxyl methyl chitosan, O-carboxyl methyl chitosan and O-hydroxy ethyl chitosan.
17. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the partially N-acetylated chitosan has a degree of acetylation from about 45% to about 55%.
18. (New) The method of claim 7 wherein the non-crosslinked component is hyaluronic acid.
19. (New) The method of claim 7 wherein the composition further comprises one of the other anionic polysaccharide components of the extracellular matrix.